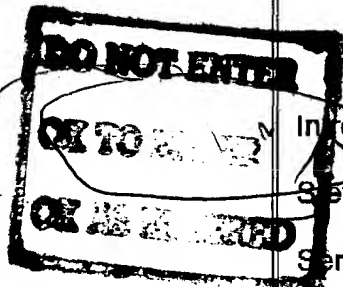


ATTENTION: BOX AFTER FINAL
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED
EXAMINING GROUP 1731

PATENT
Customer Number 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 2734.442-02



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Steven L. EDWARDS

Serial No.: 09/987,248

Filed: November 14, 2001

For: METHOD FOR MAXIMIZING
WATER REMOVAL IN A
PRESS NIP

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: J. Fortuna

BOX AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

In response to the Office Action dated July 31, 2002, and further to the
Amendment After Final, filed October 23, 2002, which was not entered, and further to
the Notice of Appeal and extension of time filed concurrently herewith, please amend
the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 52, 53, 72, 73, and 85-87 as follows:

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